AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting proliferation of a microbial population of a skin injury or surface lesion of a human or animal patient, the method comprising contacting the skin injury or the surface lesion with an antimicrobial composition, wherein the antimicrobial composition comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable antimicrobial agent, a pharmaceutically acceptable chelating agent, a pharmaceutically acceptable pH buffering agent, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, but not having TGF-β, and wherein the concentrations of the chelating agent and the antimicrobial agent are selected to synergistically inhibit proliferation of the microbial population of the skin injury or the surface lesion of the human or animal patient.
- 2. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
 - (a) identifying the microbial population;
 - (b) identifying an antibiotic capable of inhibiting proliferation of the microbial population;
 - (c) determining the minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) and the fractional inhibitory concentration (FIC) values for the antibiotic and the chelating agent; and
 - (d) selecting concentrations of the antibiotic and the chelating agent of the antimicrobial composition to synergistically inhibit proliferation of the microbial population.
- 3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable chelating agent is selected from the group consisting of ethylenediamenetetracetic acid (EDTA), triethylene

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tetramine dihydrochloride (TRIEN), ethylene glycol-bis (beta-aminoethyl ether)-N, N,

N', N'-tetracetic acid (EGTA), diethylenetriamin-pentaacetic acid (DPTA),

triethylenetetramine hexaacetic acid (TTG), deferoxamine, Dimercaprol, edetate calcium

disodium, zinc citrate, penicilamine succimer and Editronate.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable chelating agent is

further selected from the group consisting of ethylenediamenetetracetic acid (EDTA),

triethylene tetramine dihydrochloride (TRIEN), ethylene glycol-bis (beta-aminoethyl

ether)-N, N, N', N'-tetracetic acid (EGTA), diethylenetriamin-pentaacetic acid (DPTA),

and triethylenetetramine hexaacetic acid (TTG).

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable chelating agent is

ethylenediamenetetracetic acid (EDTA).

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable chelating agent is

triethylene tetramine dihydrochloride (TRIEN).

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable antimicrobial

agent is an antibiotic selected from the group consisting of a β-lactam, an

aminoglycoside, a vancomycin, a bacitracin, a macrolide, an erythromycin, a lincosamide,

a chloramphenicol, a tetracycline, a gentamicin, an amphotericin, a cefazolin, a

clindamycin, a mupirocin, a nalidixic acid, a sulfonamide and trimethoprim, a

streptomycin, a rifampicin, a metronidazole, a quinolone, a novobiocin, a polymixin and a

Gramicidin.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 7 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable antimicrobial

agent is further selected from the group consisting of a β-lactam, an aminoglycoside, a

vancomycin, a chloramphenicol, an erythromycin, a tetracycline, gentamicin, nalidixic

acid and a streptomycin.

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9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable antimicrobial

agent is oxytetracycline.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable antimicrobial

agent is amikacin.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable antimicrobial

agent is neomycin.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable antimicrobial

agent is biologically active against a Gram-negative bacterial species.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable antimicrobial

agent is biologically active against a Gram-positive bacterial species.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the microbial population is a bacterial infection

comprising at least one Gram-negative bacterial genus selected from the group consisting

of Aeromonas, Pseudomonas, Escherichia, Enterococcus, Yersinia, Vibrio, Flexibacter,

Nocardia, Flavobacterium, Edwardsiella and Cytophagia.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the microbial population is a bacterial infection

comprising at least one Gram-positive bacterial genus selected from the group consisting

of Bacillus, Staphylococcus, Streptococcus, and Mycobacterium.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable pH buffering

agent comprises Tris (hydroxymethyl) aminomethane (TRIZMA Base).

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the skin injury is a burn.

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19. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the skin injury is an abrasion.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the skin injury is an ulcer.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the surface lesion is a lesion of the oral mucosa of

a human or animal patient.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the antimicrobial composition is a mouthwash for

inhibiting the proliferation of a microbial population of the oral cavity of a human or

animal.

23. – 53. (Cancelled).

54. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 1, wherein the antimicrobial composition consists

essentially of the pharmaceutically acceptable antimicrobial agent, the pharmaceutically

acceptable chelating agent, the pharmaceutically acceptable pH buffering agent, and the

pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

55. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting proliferation of a microbial population of a skin

injury or surface lesion of a human or animal patient, the method comprising contacting

the skin injury or the surface lesion with an antimicrobial composition, wherein the

antimicrobial composition consists essentially of a pharmaceutically acceptable

antimicrobial agent, a pharmaceutically acceptable chelating agent, a pharmaceutically

acceptable pH buffering agent, vitamin E and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, but

not having TGF-β, and wherein the concentrations of the chelating agent and the

antimicrobial agent are selected to synergistically inhibit proliferation of the microbial

population of the skin injury or the surface lesion of the human or animal patient.

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